

AN EAST GERMAN GETS LIFE AS SPY

Said to Have Passed Atomic
Secrets to the West

By DAVID BINDER
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BERLIN, March 4—The East German press agency A.D.N. confirmed today that a major spy had been tried and sentenced to life imprisonment, probably for revealing atomic secrets to the West.

It named the defendant in the secret trial, which ended Saturday, as a "Dr. Frucht" and identified him as former director of the Institute for Work Physiology in East Berlin.

Informed sources said the case involved Prof. Adolf Henning Frucht, previously an associate of the East German atomic research center at Rossendorf, near Dresden, and also a research worker at the Soviet atomic center in Dubna.

Ironically, Dr. Frucht was a subordinate of another famous atom spy, Klaus Fuchs, at Rossendorf. Professor Fuchs, who is 55 years old, was exposed as a Soviet agent in 1950 at the British atomic center at Harwell and sentenced to 14 years in prison. He was deported to East Germany in 1959 and soon afterward took up duties as the deputy director of the Rossendorf center.

The sources said that Dr. Frucht had specialized in atomic warfare techniques and that he was considered knowledgeable on the atomic arma-

Continued on Page 14, Column 6

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

ments of the Soviet Union and its allies, including East Germany.

He is understood to have passed nuclear secrets to United States and British intelligence agencies, although no confirmation for this could be obtained. The East German report said only that he had committed "grave crimes in the service of imperialist secret services."

The sources said the East German military tribunal that tried him in the Supreme Court building, on Scharnhorststrasse, just back of the Berlin wall,

had been asked by the prosecutor to impose a death sentence.

The prosecutor was alleged to have described Dr. Frucht as East Europe's "greatest atomic traitor" since the exposure of Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky, a Russian who was executed by the Soviet Union in May, 1963.

Dr. Frucht was said to have told the court that he had committed espionage for the West to help maintain an atomic balance. This was the reason given by Professor Fuchs for atomic espionage after his arrest 18 years ago.

Bild Zeitung, a West German tabloid, reported today that Communist counter-espionage agents got on Dr. Frucht's trail after another East German scientist, Prof. Heinz Barwich,

succeeded in escaping to the West in 1964.

According to information available here, Dr. Frucht practiced as a physician before 1945 and spent some time in the United States. He is the author of a book published in East Germany under the title, "The Limits of Human Capability in Sport." He was also a member of the board of the Society for Medical Electrotechnology in Dresden.